

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given the present application. The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action. Favorable reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested in view of the remarks and amendments made herein.

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indicated allowability of claim 4 if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, claim 4 has been amended herein into independent form.


Claims 3, 5–7, and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Howie, Jr. (U.S. Patent No. 5,688,461). This rejection is traversed for at least the following reasons. The Examiner relies on tubular wall 35 of Howie, Jr. as being equivalent to the claimed plurality of bridge portions. However, the tubular wall 35 of Howie, Jr. does not extend radially between the mounting portion and the operation portion, as required by claim 3. The common meaning of ‘radially’ is “going from the center outward or from the circumference inward along a radius” as defined by www.dictionary.com, which definition is taken from the Random House Unabridged Dictionary. As illustrated in Howie, Jr., the tubular wall 35 extends downwardly from an annular partition 33 to a bottom circular portion 39. No portion of the tubular wall 35 extends from the center outward or from the circumference inward along the radius of the plastic knob. To anticipate a claim, “[t]he identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the...claim.” *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989). Moreover, the elements must be arranged as required by the claim. *In re Bond*, 910 F.2d 831, 15 USPQ2d 1566 (Fed. Cir. 1990). Because, the plastic knob of Howie, Jr. fails to include a plurality of bridge portions that extend radially between a mounting portion and an operation portion, Howie, Jr. cannot anticipate claim 3 or claims 5–7 and 13, which depend therefrom. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection and allowance of claims 3, 5–7 and 13 are respectfully requested.

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in a condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

Appln. No. 10/767,983
Amdt. dated November 10, 2006
Reply to Office Action dated August 11, 2006

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No. 36416.

Respectfully submitted,
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